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NOVEMBER 1977

The Spark Gap

VOL III NO XI

WA1AHC

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

With bands having opened to all parts of the world it seems that everyone has been having a ball working DX, including yours truly and consequently almost forgot that there are other things needing to be done besides sit and chat on the bands. It happened to me last month too and therefore, you didn't get your paper until long after the first meeting of the month. It is my hope to have this paper in your hands by the first of the month. So, keep in mind that if you have something to put into the Gap, I will need your info before the 15th of the month deadline.

Things are picking up in this area as we have received some articles from the members that you will read as you get into this edition and we encourage to send in anything of interest in to the Editor so it can add to the caliber of our paper.

We also have the services of Peter Spotts, WB1BUP, who has consented to be the assistant editor and I am sure you will like his flare for getting the message across. You will read some of his articles in this issue and future ones as well. Pete lives down in Boston and is a journalist for the Christian Science Monitor. We welcome Pete to the staff.

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PLEASE NOTE: In December there will be no regular meetings other than the Natick Mall Message Fair. We wish you SEASON'S GREETINGS. Keep tuned to Sunday Novice net for club bulletins as they arise.

73, Jim Hatherley WA1TBY

CLEARING THE AIR

It may sound strange, but some amateurs still don't know that one of the primary reasons for amateur radio's existence is to provide a public service.

Not long ago, I heard a rumor that a repeater group in the greater Boston area discouraged traffic handling through their machine. The only exception, so the rumor went, was emergency traffic.

A few days later, a friend and I were working that repeater, and I decided to find out if the rumor was true. During a QSO with one of the repeater's regulars, I asked if there were any limitations on traffic through that repeater. Another regular broke in, and although I can't quote his response, the idea behind it remains clear--they handled emergency traffic, but don't want to be bothered with routine traffic.

This attitude virtually scoffs at a major foundation of amateur radio--public service. And ironically, it also perpetuates a longstanding problem of not being able to get traffic into that area of Massachusetts.

Any club or repeater organization has a right to set some kind of rules for the use of its repeater. But these guidelines whether formal or informal, must be within the bounds of the five purposes of amateur radio set forth by the FCC. It is no coincidence that the FCC lists public service as amateur radio's first "Basis and Purpose." (U.S. Amateur Regulations, Subpart A, 97.1)

Working and sponsoring repeaters can and should be enjoyable. And a repeater group needn't spend 24 hours a day handling traffic. But anyone sponsoring or working a repeater shouldn't ignore the more serious purposes underlying amateur radio, and therefore governing repeater operation

I do hope that these hams someday get the message. After all, a note of cheer or sympathy to someone in need means much more that trying to decide on the air, who will bring the donuts to the next repeater meeting.

De Peter Spotts, WB1BUP.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

Nov. 3 and Nov. 17th at 7:30 PM
No meetings in December. XMAS Grtngs...
Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 672 from ARRL HQ to all radio amateurs Sept 29th, 1977 BT

The Oscar Educational Bulletins will resume beginning October 1 on Oscar 7. On Mode A weekdays you will be able to hear the bulletins on the first 2 appropriate morning passes at 29.490 MHZ. Whenever Mode B falls on a Wednesday, listen for the educational bulletins at 145.950 MHZ on the first 2 appropriate passes. Amateurs giving an Oscar demonstration in their local schools are eligible to receive a complimentary copy of the 1977 ARRL Handbook. Just send ARRL a note of confirmation on the school letterhead from the teacher you assisted. When using Oscar, please remember to keep your effective radiated power down to the recommended 100 watts. Failure to do so will adversely affect normal operations for all. AR...

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NR 673 from ARRL HQ.
BT The new W1AW Fall-Winter schedule is ready for distribution. Designed for ease of use, the new schedule details code practice as well as various bulletins. The Tabulation includes PST, CST, EST as well as UTC. In addition, complete information is included on the ARRL Qualifying Run Program. Please send an addressed stamped envelope to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, Ct. 06111 and ask for your copy of the new W1AW schedule.

QSY PLEASE, deW1TKZ

ABOUT OUR CLUB BUILDING

The building now used by the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society for a clubhouse, was at one time, Wellesley's first high school. The story of this goes back to 1881, when Wellesley was set off from Needham as a separate town.

That year, Wellesley had two grammar schools which alternated as high schools. After several years, overcrowding at the grammar school level caused the Town to change this arrangement. So, in August 1894, the Intermediate Building, as it is now called, was opened as the first building in Wellesley to be built for the sole purpose of being a high school. By 1900, attendance at this high school was doubled, creating the need for new additions.

But, instead of making additions, a new high school was built and opened on Kingsbury Street in 1907, (the former high school on Washington Street was designated for grades six and seven, as well as for a night school). Thirty years later, the Kingsbury Street High School was replaced by the present one on Seaver Street. Afterwards, a referendum was held in which it was voted to demolish the high school on Kingsbury Street and replace it with the present Junior High School. This being done in 1952, classes were removed from the Intermediate Building and placed in the new Junior High School. In the end, this building was converted into a town office building.

de George Young, WA1YAU

Activities

The meeting of November 17th will be devoted to finalizing plans for the Natick Mall Message Fair. We hope to see many of you signing up to give us a hand in the passing of all this traffic. Last year we handled 908 messages in four days and a projecting a greater amount this year so your help is very much needed. Operating skeds will be posted at the club, just put your name down for the times convenient for you. This exercise will run from Dec. 5th through Dec. 10. Not only has this been a club activity but also is a lot of fun and guaranteed to enhance your ability in traffic handling and routing.

The Middlesex Radio Club will be holding their auction at the Mason-Rice Elementary School on November 25, 1977. Check-in times are 7:00 PM and the auction will begin at 8:00 PM. The school is in Newton Center at 149 Pleasant St. Talk in on 96/36 and 52/52 direct.

Harmonics About Town

Martha Gauthier, WB1BUU is back at the Wellesley-Newton Hospital. She would like to hear from some of you. We, from the club, wish you a speedyrecovery Martha.

Martha Gauthier, WB1BUU, is back in the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She would like to hear from you. We, from the club, miss your presence Martha and wish you a speedy recovery.

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ACTIVITIES

Once again, W.A.R.S. will be sponsoring a QSO party, celebrating our 26th year as an active club. The dates will run from Nov. 19 at 0100Z (2000 hours local time on Nov. 18th) through Nov. 20 until 1900Z for a total of 42 hours. A beautiful certificate, suitable for framing, will be awarded to all stations exchanging RSTand ARRL Section and country for DX contacts with W1TKZ on either phone or cw. Phone sweepstakes exchanges are also valid and welcomed. In order to qualify, stations must submit a completed QSL card and a long SASE to Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, 324 Wash. St., Wellesley Hills, Ma., 02181 before December 31, 1977. The station will be operating on the following frequencies ± 10 khz. Phone: 3.950, 7.250, 14.310, 21.400, 28.600, 146.52: CW: 3.720, 7.120, 21..20, and 28.120. This is our second annual celebration of the club's anniversary so we hope to see you taking part in the celebration.

De Bill, WA1PQY

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At the last meeting the idea was brought up that we ought to wear our nameplates bearing our name and call sign. Whereas the club is growing so fast, it is difficult to recognize everyone by name or call sign, so it would be helpful if you would remember to wear them to the club meetings or classes. If you don't already have one, we are looking into a club member that may be able to sell them to you for a nominal cost. More on this as details are ironed out, but by wearing your badge, it will help others get to know you better.

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The Novice Net of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is now functioning again on 21,120 Khz. on Sunday nights at 8:30 P.M. local time. A three page pamphlet has been typed up explaining net proceedures and the use of the "Q" signals. You can pick one up at the club or write for a copy. It not only helps us to keep you informed with late bulletins as they arrive, but also a net where we can pair off a couple of stations to go off the net frequency and have a short QSO with each other. Besides all this we will also handle formal traffic, passing it into the NTS (National Traffic System) for final delivery anywhere in the U.S. or Canada. This is an ideal net for you techs who want to increase your code speed so you can get your general tickets as the net will only go as fast as is necessary for all to understand. Please feel free to QNI (check in) to the net control station. Dave Curry, WA1TAK is the Net Manager. To stir up activity on this net, we encourage you to originate some formal traffic such as Thanksgiving greetings to your friends or relatives around the country, or just a quick hello to them to let them know they are being thought of. They will appreciate it when some ham somewhere calls them on the telephone and delivers your radiogram. C'MON and make someone happy, as you will also benefit from it too!

ACTIVITIES...CONT'D.

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Tim McNamara was involved in an automobile accident recently and is in the hospital. Details are vague but from what I can gather, he was hurt quite seriously but should recover in due time.

CLEARING THE AIR

It has been brought to the attention of the executive board that we are not keeping either the club room or the class room in clean condition. Upon investigating this complaint it sure showed up that we were indeed, not keeping the area clean. Therefore we ask your indulgence that when you are at a meeting or at a class in the basement, please police your area before you leave. It will be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

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At a recent session of the Executive meeting it was brought out that we needed a set of headphones for the club room. We did have two sets up there which evidently have gone out on 'loan.' If those people borrowing these headphones would return them to the club, it would solve this problem. If anyone knows the whereabouts of same, hearing from you will be appreciated.

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DUES DUES DUES.....Yep, we still talk about this little item. Though we do have about 75% of the dues in, there are still those who have forgotten and this should to act as a reminder to mail it in.

"timeout!"

NOVICES HATE ME NOW

I'm not very handsome, I'm not too bright, but I could always strike up a good QSO with some novice during the early morning hours. I usually work CW from 4 to 7 A.M. for the past three years. Unlike most hams with a TVI problem on a few sets, I have it on 920+ TV's. My apartment is in a building that also houses the master TV SYSTEM for the complex. Oh well, enough of that subject, besides I like working CW and new hams anyway. As long as they think I'm an old novice or tech, they like my fist and ask when I'm going for the general test. The QSO's usually go very well, that is, until they look up my call. That is when the problem usually starts. They are convinced either they received or I've been sending my call incorrectly for the last twenty minutes.

Once they have determined I am who I said I was, the twenty questions start coming: Why the novice band? Why 15 WPM? Why? Why? Why? Don't get me wrong, I enjoy their questions and try to convince them that extra's aren't bad. Some really think we are hairy beasts with bugs in each hand kilowatt amplifiers strapped to our backs.

But, you think I had problems then, wait until you try working them with a 1 X 2 call. Boy, that's rough! But, as I stated before, and in keeping with my style of doing nothing in a small way, I have created the ultimate problem in working a novice - !! ** an "N" 1 X 2 call ** !!, Have I gone too far? I was expecting new questions like: What country is that? Where is that territory? or even - Where did I learn English? NOPE! We don't get past the call letters. I now get "WN1CW?", "K1CW", or "W1CW" in my response to my return of their CQ. One novice responded with a "go away lid" - BOY, WAS I CRUSHED!

For you novices and tech's, believe the calls you hear, like K1DX, W1DA, W1BK or even N1CW! Remember that extra's are allowed to leave their band and like to work you. DE N1CW, Ray Shoop

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(This pertains to the bottom article for sale in opposite column. Call Ed Jansson 305-644-9008 or write to 1130 Willobrook Trail, Maitland, Fla. 35721 - - - - - - -

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB200 linear amplifier still in original cartons-- $300.00
ASTATIC D-104 mike w/base and preamp $30.00 Call Pete Spotts, WB1BUP evenings at 262-1595.

FOR SALE: Heathkit DX-40, 75 watts input on CW and AM. Power supply modified solid state, replacement of rectifier tube. In good condition with crystals. Best offer over $45.00. Jim WB1AVC 964 4427.

STOLEN: I-COM-211 from Harry Burtman's car. The serial number is #1613. Theft occurred on Sept. 27, 1977. A reward will be paid for its recovery but more important, keep out an eye for this rig. Any info should be given to Harry at 58 Union St., Stoughton. Harry's telephone is an unlisted number so guess you will have to write or chat with him on 2 meters. He is WB1ANM.

FOR SALE: I-COM 22S 2 meter transceiver in mint condition. For price information call Bill Downing, WA1PQY at 235-4484.

LOOKING FOR a 2 meter portable, preferably a Drake TR22 or TR33. Call Farrell Woods, WB1ELQ at 235-1901.

KWM-2 COLLINS transceiver. This is the unit at the club station. Price 650.00. Call Don Chesley WA1HVS at 655-5211.

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A little laugh never hurt anyone and thought I would print this little story.

So the story goes, Thomas A. Edison was one of the first to show concern for the western Indians. He went to California and finding conditions deplorable, he vowed to help in some way. On one reservation Edison wired the rather crude restrooms for light.

And that's how Edison became the first white man to wire ahead for a reservation.

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FOR SALE: Heathkit SB301 Rcvr, SB401 transmitter with all cables and manuals. new finals in Tx, all rcvr filters and 6 meter converter built in. Price 475.00

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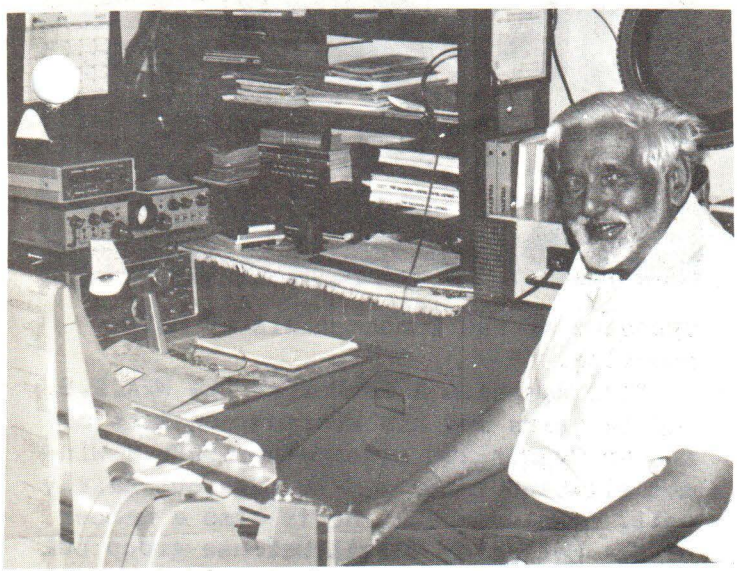
profiles

by Peter Spotts
WB1BUP

Robert (Bob) Woodbury holds several distinctions -- among which is the dubious problem of having never been born. Or, so it appeared for a while. Bob, K1ZL tells the story about his trip to the passport office in Boston. There he discovered, much to his dismay, that he had no birth record. The doctor that delivered him on Nov. 6, 1906, passed away two days after Bob's birth. And the doctor that took the case over assumed -- incorrectly, -- that a birth certificate had already been filed. Years later, the matter finally was resolved in that passport office when Bob brought his mother in to confirm his birth. Bob also was surprised to find that the clerk with whom he was dealing, was living in the same house -- 85 Brighton Ave., Allston -- on the same floor where K1ZL was born. The Woodbury's now live in Dover, Mass.



Bob graduated from Winchester High School in 1923, where, after graduation, he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But after two years at MIT, he got the yen to study English Literature. So, he transferred to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. However, in a years time, Bob returned to MIT where he graduated in 1928 with a Bachelors degree in Math and Theoretical Physics. From MIT Bob moved up Mass. Ave., to Harvard University and received a Master of Arts degree. Later that year, he was appointed to the Faculty

PROFILES ... CONT'D.

of MIT, and served here until 1940.

World War II interupted Bob's academic career. He joined the Navy and served initially in gunnery and torpedo units. Later, he attended the Navy War College in Newport, R.I. He served under seven admirals at various times during the rest of the war, ending up in the 7th fleet on Admiral Kincaid's staff. After Japan surrendered, Bob returned to MIT's faculty. But, the Navy wasn't quite ready to give him up yet. A year after returning to MIT, Bob was recalled by the Navy to take part in one of it's research projects. When the project was completed, Bob returned to MIT, and served there until his retirement in 1974.

The Navy still is in Bob's blood, however. He serves as the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Training Director for the Navy side of MARS operation; His call is NNNØHNV. In this distinctive role, Bob receives all incoming MARS traffic from Washington, D.C. on his teletype. In turn, he distributes it throughout the New England Areas.

Bob's involvement in amateur radio dates back to 1921 when he first was licensed as 1BNP and later, 1ZL. However, he let the license lapse. Two years or so ago, he resumed amateur operations as a novice and had the call WA1UWS. In less than a year he upgraded from here to the Extra Class ticket. Having attained this grade in time to select a 1 X 2 call, he chose that closest to his old one 1ZL and is now K1ZL.

Bob's radio equipment consists of a Yaesu FT101EE, a Dentron 1200 linear, the RTTY equipment, and a newly acquired Genave 2 meter rig.

Despite his retirement, Bob is an active teacher of novice and general radio license courses. Through his efforts, more than 75 CB'ers have been brought into the wide world either side of the 11 meter band.

Besides ham radio and its affiliated activities, Bob has a yen for Oriental cooking, which he shares with his wife Connie. They've been married 28 years and have five children, all grown.

Bob and Connie have put several thousand miles under their belts, travelling to such diverse parts of the world as South Africa where Bob served as a visit-

ing Professor, Europe and South America.

Bob is a credit to the field of Amateur Radio, and we are happy to see that he finally was able to prove he was born.

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Nate Hallenstein, W1JMA, is another of our club members with a long background in amateur radio, having been first licensed in 1937. He lives in Wellesley with his wife, Helen.

Nate was born in Springfield, Mass. in July, 1905 when, after two years, he moved to Waterbury, Ct. Here he went through the grades, graduating from Waterbury High School in 1923. From here he attended the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., graduating with honors in 1928 as an Electrical Engineer. He was made an Honorary Member of the Phi Beta Tau Engineering Society.

From here he began his career by working at Westinghouse for two years when in 1930, he went with the Department of Commerce where he continued on until his retirement. In those early days, FCC was not yet heard of and when it was, Nate was transferred to this department of the government. In this position, Nate worked in several cities, finally ending up in Boston as the top man, Engineer-in-Charge of the New England FCC office. During his years with the government, he worked in places like New York City, Philadelphia, Savannah, Ga., Norfolk, Va., Grand Island, Neb., Galveston and Dallas, Texas, Washington, D.C. and finally back in Boston. He retired in 1969.

While at Westinghouse, just after graduation in 1928, Nate worked on the first factory built monitoring receiver and measuring equipment for initial installation at the Grand Island, Neb. site. The first New England installation was at Hingham, Mass. a little later on. Years later, when they were moving the equipment from Hingham to the new site in Millis, Mass., Nate saw his signature on the test ticket still attached to the equipment. It now graces his shack as a memento of his long career.

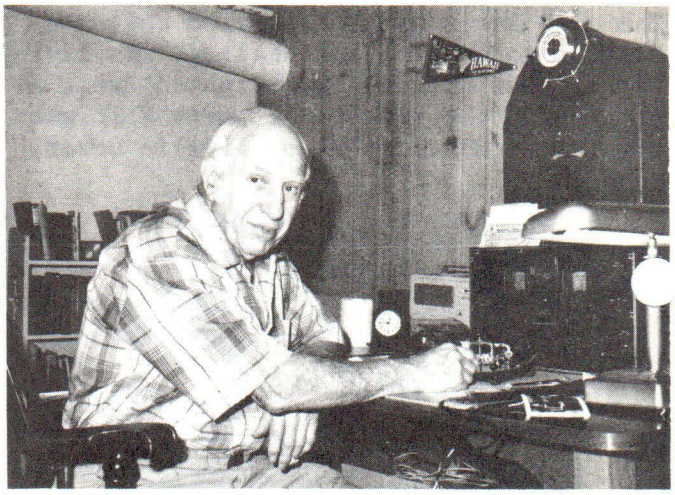
Nate first became interested in radio at the age of 13 when he used to participate in the Boy Scouts and used to send messages with a single semaphore flag, one dip to right was a dit, a dip to the left was a dah. This is how he learned the

PROFILES.....CONT'D.

the Morse code. He built his first receiver from a Boy Scout Manual having had to build his coils and other articles of the hardware. He also built a code practice oscillator using a hack saw blade as his first paddle. Both units were powered by batteries.

During his FCC career, Nate had call signs of W1JMA, 4HIK, 5TKW and upon his return to Boston, got his original W1JMA back again. Nate is an extra class ham but didn't bother to apply for a 1 X 2 call when they were opened for the extra class hams who wanted to apply for them.

Nates hobbies are amateur radio, photography, repairing clocks, bowling, is a marksman with a rifle but shoots better off the hand than from a prone position, which, as Nate points out, is just the



opposite of the fundamentals of rifle shooting.

Nate has been a member of the W.A.R.S. for 14 years and his station consists of a Swan Cygnet 260 transceiver into a Windom all-band antenna. He gets out fairly well, mostly on CW. He is also a member of the Wellesley Civil Defense group but to date, hasn't upgraded his old 2 meter AM to a 2 meter FM rig. We sure would like to see him relent and let us hear his voice on our repeater one of these days.

Nate, we are happy to have you around the club.

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NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We would like to extend our welcome to latest members of the club. I do not have your call signs handy but they will come out on the regular printout of club members. So, say hello to Chuck Healey, Denise Cayon, Bill Opalka, Laurence Beck, Sam MacDonald, Bernie Bettinelli, Alan and Don Jacobson, Tony DeCicco, Dennis McDonald David Kirschen, Jim O'Connor, Ed Gallagher, George Andrews and George Sline.

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NEW UPGRADE goes to Farrell Woods, WB1ELQ who just got his technician ticket. Congratulations Farrell.

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Just a reminder, if you do upgrade your tickets, please drop a note to the Spark Gap so we can not only acknowledge your success, but to upgrade our roster listing as well. Thanks.

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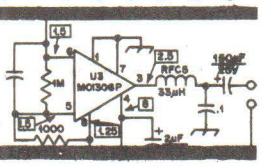
Tek Tok



Computers have become a super popular hobby. The amount of interest changes inversely with the price of the hobby and its simplicity. Most every amateur who has read QST, 73, Ham Radio or any other ham magazine has seen ads from popular microcomputer companies. I know this has stirred up some interest on this topic in the club, especially myself, and have been watching MP's(microprocessors) for some time now. I am interested in all aspects of this field, from computer music to the exchange of software(computer programs) via the ham link(ie; repeaters, Oscar etc) So, if you are an old hand when it comes to using them, or if you are just interested enough to stick your toe in the water, please contact me. I'll try to be at the next meeting but I make no promises. If you cant find me, drop me a line telling me what you would like to see. Any ideas, pro or con, are welcome, and wanted. In any event, write me.

Sami Nuwayser, WA1TWK
25 Ingraham Rd.,
Wellesley, Ma. 02181

(note:) This ought to prove to be a challenging field for some of you guys.

QSY PLEASE, deW1TKZ

OSCAR KEEPS HAMS IN TOUCH..Peter Costa-UP

When the average person thinks of ham radio, he thinks about someone playing with black boxes connected to aluminum antennas beaming signals off the ionosphere to other hams with similar equipment.

And for 90 percent of ham radio this conception of the hobby is valid.'

But one of the more exotic forms of ham radio communication--satellite relay--is growing and becoming popular among the world's hams.

The relay system is called OSCAR (Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio) and is designed and built by hams from several nations around the world.

The first OSCAR was rocketed into orbit in 1961, four years after Sputnik 1, and was the world's first nongovernmental satellite. OSCAR 1 was designed and built by a group of volunteer hams from California at a cost of $63.

The two most recent OSCAR satellites are still circling the earth and provide two-way communication between amateur radio stations up to 5,000 miles apart.

According to the ARRL in Newington, Ct., when an OSCAR is planned, arrangements are made with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to schedule a launch alongside another satellite. OSCAR 7, for example, was launched "piggyback" with a weather satellite.

Once launched and placed into orbit, OSCAR satellites relay radio signals sent to them from ground stations, providing worldwide communication for amateur radio operators. The two most recent satellites can receive and transmit several different types of communication: voice, Morse code, and slow-scan amateur television, among others.

A device called a transponder makes two way communication possible. OSCAR 6 contains one transponder which converts signals sent to it on the amateur 2-meter band to the 10-meter band. OSCAR satellites have served in times of emergencies during earthquakes when land-based communications have been knocked out and have been used to relay medical information such as electrocardiograms and to help

QSY PLEASE.....CONT'D.

locate downed aircraft.

The Soviets are planning an amateur satellite network that will use four satellites in a circular polar orbit. The Soviet radio satellites will have the capability of relaying ham signals from stations 4,000 miles apart.

American hams are developing more and more sophisticated modes of transmission but it appears the most reliable, long distance mode will continue to be satellite relay.

ACTIVITIES

At the last Executive meeting on Oct. 8, 1977 I was appointed to the position of Station Manager. I, Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, will take over the responsibilities that Joe McGrath, WA1JIR, held last year. It is a tough act to follow because, as you know, under Joe's guidance, we went from zero to the console and club station we now have. My primary responsibilities include upkeep of the operating room, setting up station operating hours, and organization of control operators. Also formation of a committee to periodically review the equipment needs of the club. This committee, now being set up, will recommend equipment upgrades and purchases for the club station. We want members from each license class to be represented, so, if you would like to have a voice in what goes into the club station, let me know.

For operating hours we would like to have the station open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday(meeting nights excluded) from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. and Wednesday from 8:30to 10:00 P.M. for the use by all members. But, we must have control operators to supervise. so, here is a chance for you to give of your time by donating one evening for this activity. Please let me know by the next meeting or write c/o the club or 35 Phillips Ave., Norwood, Mass., 02062 or call 762-5074.

As for upkeep, this is everyone's responsibility - leave the station operating area neater than when you arrived and it will be a lot easier and more pleasant to come down to the club to operate. Hope to see you at the console. Dick Paret WA1ZLQ

QSY PLEASE, de W1TKZ

Finally got some dope on those callsign nameplates. For two bucks you can have your callsign and name engraved on a 1"X 3" plastic back suitable for pinning on your jacket or shirt. Call Madeline 235-1120. If you desire something more elaborate, prices can be given separately.

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All of which brings us to the end of another edition of the 'GAP'. Remember we will have no meetings in December but will be down at the Natick Mall from Dec. 5th through the 10th. We hope you will sign up on the sheet at the club.

So, since there is no meeting in December let me, on behalf of the club, wish each and every one of you the very best of holiday wishes. See you later.

73, Jim Hatherley
Editor. WA1TBY